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February 10, 2009

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From: Alan D. Miller Esq.

Re: U.S. Utility Patent Application No. 10/501,628

Title: MUTATIONS CAUSED BY ACTIVATION-INDUCED
CYTIDINE DEAMINASE

Inventors: Alberto Martin and Matthew D. Scharff

Your Ref.: 703828

Our File: 96700/905

Prepd. by: Return to: rf No. of pages including cover: 2

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PLEASE ACKNOWLEDGE
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Re: U.S. Patent Application No. 10/501,628
"Mutations Caused by Activation-Induced Cytidine Deaminase"
(Martin et al. - AECOM)
ARE Reference: 96700/905
LVM Reference: 703828

Dear Dr. Miller:

Thank you for your email of November 18, 2008, which forwarded an Office Action in the above-referenced patent application. Please prepare a draft reply to the Office Action in accordance with our instructions, which are set forth below. In order to ensure that the proposed amendments are considered by the Examiner, please also file a Request for Continued Examination (RCE).

Please replace claims 1-9, 13, 15, 18-25, 58, 97, 125, and 262-307 with claims 1-9, 13, 15, 18-25, 58, 97, 125, and 262-307 as set forth in the attached "Proposed Claim Amendments" (redlined and clean claim sets). The amended claims point out more particularly and claim more distinctly the present invention as compared to the existing pending claims. In general, the claims have been amended to clarify that the method comprises inducing and identifying a mutation in a DNA sequence encoding a protein, an antibody, an antibody heavy chain, or a monoclonal antibody. Claims 1, 58, 97, and 125 also have been amended to recite that AID deaminates the DNA sequence. This amendment is supported by the specification at, e.g., paragraphs 0101, 0171, 0194, and 0217. Claim 1 also has been amended to delete the phrase "wherein the gene subject to mutation is within about two kilobases of the promoter." The